IV. Resolutions of the 41st Session, Trivandrum, 9-11 October, 1971

Resolution III: The Indian Historical Records Commission places on record its appreciation of the steps taken by the National Archives of India during the last two years for expediting the compilation of reference media to the various series of the records in its custody. But, as the volume of records for which the reference media has to be prepared is very large, the Government of India is urged to sanction adequate staff for this essential aspect of archives administration. Similar programmes may be taken up by State Archives Departments also which face the same problem.

Andhra Pradesh: The programme of preparing the Reference Media for the records in its custody has already been taken up. Due to the financial difficulties additional staff for preparation of the Guides to District Records etc. could not be sanctioned.

Kerala: For the compilation of a Reference Media to all the records in the custody of the State Archives Department, a staff consisting of a Junior Editor and an Editorial Assistant has been working on the project for the last one year and more. Effort is being made to complete the work early. The State Archives is simultaneously taking steps to bring out a booklet entitled "An Introduction to the Kerala State Archives" and this is expected to serve as pre-cursor to the proposed "Reference Media".

Maharashtra: The Department of Archives of this Government has already started compilation of Reference Media to the various series of the records in its custody.

Punjab: The work for the compilation of the Reference Media to the records in the Punjab State Archives has already been taken in hand, but substantial progress has not been achieved in this behalf due to paucity of staff. With a view to implementing the recommendation in proper perspective, steps are being taken to provide more staff under the Fifth Five-Year-Plan Scheme.

Rajasthan: The work of the preparation of Reference Media to the records of the State Archives has been taken up in three ways, viz. (i) Preparation of Descriptive Lists for publication, (ii) preparation of certain lists for cyclostyling, and (iii) preparation of Subject Lists and Check-Lists.

> Resolution IV: Resolved that in the interest of completeness of official records of historical value, weeding of records at the various levels by untrained persons be stopped.

Maharashtra: A proposal to set up a training centre for imparting training in Archives-Keeping is under consideration of this Government, after which it would presumably be possible to implement this Resolution.

Mizoram: A good number of official records from some Departments have been lost during the outbreak of disturbance in Mizoram. However, appropriate action on the resolution would be taken as soon as the State Archives is formed. We have written back to Mizoram Government pointing out that action on the resolution need not await the setting up of an Archives Department in the State.

West Bengal: A copy of the resolution has been forwarded to all the Departments of the State Government for their consideration with the request to have their staff trained, if necessary, through the short-term Training Course in Record Management in the National Archives of India.

The weeding of records in the State Archives is done by the trained staff of this Department under the direct supervision of the Chief Archivists and the Assistant Director of Archives.

Resolution V: The Commission is of the view that it is imperative to take all necessary steps to ensure the proper maintenance and preservation of all Public records in the States, whether current, semi-current or non-current. The State Governments are, therefore, requested to implement urgently the recommendations already made by the Commission (vide resolutions VII and XIII of the 38th Session) and (i) transfer all District records more than 30 years old to the control of the State Archives, and (ii) declare their Director of State Archives to be inspecting authority for the non-current records of the State Offices at all levels, as also of the local bodies viz. Municipalities, Zilla Parishads etc. in the State.

Andhra Pradesh: (i) The records which are 30 years old of the District Collectorates are transferred under the orders of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to the control of the Director of State Archives, (ii) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

West Bengal: The decision of the State Government in this respect will be communicated as early as possible.

Resolution VI: The Commission reiterates its recommendation earlier made in Resolution VI of the Research and Publication Committee at its 27th meeting, and urges that Archives Departments in India should take early steps to compile lists of their old publications which are still in demand and try to get limited number of their copies reprinted.

Rajasthan: Since the State Archives is rather a nascent one it does not have any such publication which is in need of reprint.

Resolution VII: This Commission appeals to the concerned authorities of Temples, Gurdwaras, Churches, Khankahs, Waqfs etc. to allow bonafide Research Scholars to consult their documents for research purposes, and the scholars who are allowed access to these records may, if necessary, voluntarily prepare the lists of these records.

Resolution VIII: The Commission appeals to the authorities maintaining the records of the Temples, Maths, Churches, Mosques, Gurdwaras etc. to ensure their proper preservation and, if possible, to deposit these documents with the various Archives or Learned Institutions for safe custody.

Maharashtra: The matter is receiving attention.

Orissa: The authorities of the Sri Jagannath Temple have been requested to preserve their records scientifically and, if possible, to deposit the records in the State Archives of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.

The Administrator of Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri has been kind enough to allow the Research Scholars to consult the Temple records.

Resolution IX: The Commission recommends that the Universities may provide facilities for archival training, during the 5th Five-Year Plan period, if the University Grants Commission could provide financial assistance for the purpose.

Gauhati University: The matter is receiving attention.

Jabalpur University: It is not possible for this University to start a new project involving expenditure of any kind.

Jodhpur University: In order to accommodate other important schemes of the University it has not been possible to include the proposals for archival training in the 5th Five-Year Plan.

Nagpur University: There are no facilities for archival training as such in the University although the University maintains a Manuscript and Microfilms Department in the library.

Poona University: The University had formulated a proposal for the establishment of an Archival Cell and had approached the University Grants Commission for financial assistance for this purpose. The Commission has expressed its inability to accept the proposal.

Sambalpur University: The University has decided to introduce the Diploma Course in Archives Keeping in its 5th Five-Year Plan period. Action is being taken to prepare the detailed syllabus and regulations etc. for the course. The scheme shall be submitted to the University Grants Commission in time.

Visva-Bharati: The University has accepted the resolution in principle. The University Grants Commission is being moved accordingly for necessary financial assistance.

Resolution XII: Keeping in view the enormous problems created by the evergrowing bulk of records, the Commission appreciates the lead presently given by the National Archives of India and the Department of Administrative Reforms, Government of India, in the sphere of management of the records of the Union Government and their time-bound appraisal. It also notes with satisfaction the steps taken by some State Governments for weeding of their non-essential records. The Commission urges all those State Governments and Union Territories which have not yet initiated such a programme on a regular basis to do so urgently with a view to economising in the long run on the upkeep and preservation of their permanent records. The concerned Governments may consult, if necessary, the National Archives of India for this purpose.

Andhra Pradesh: The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Mizoram: Implementation of the resolution would be possible as soon as the State Archives comes into existence. The Mizoram Administration has also been explained the implications of the above resolution.

Nagaland: The organisation of the State Archives is at its initial stage, as a result very little progress was made in this respect. The State Government has been informed that the time-bound appraisal of records is equally essential when the records are in current and semi-current stage.

Orissa: Steps have already been taken for weeding out non-essential records. A permanent State Archives building has been constructed in which old records are also being collected and preserved.

Resolution XIII: The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends to all the State Archives to provide facilities for the supply of microfilms or typed copies of 'open' records to bonafide Research Scholars on payment without any undue delay.

Orissa: Steps are being taken to provide typed copies of the open records to the bonafide Research Scholars on payment of cost.

Resolution XIV: Resolved that the State Governments be requested to open Regional, or Divisional Archives in each Commissioner's Division, where the non-ephemeral records of all the Collectorates etc. in the Division may be collected and preserved under the overall control and supervision of the Director of the State Archives. This is absolutely essential for the purpose of not only preservation of papers, but also for promoting the writing of regional history.

Andhra Pradesh: The Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs.11,000 for the establishment of a Regional Office of State Archives at Tirupati to centralise, in the first instance, the records of the Rayalaseema and Nellore Collectorates and manuscripts of historical importance of the area.

The question of establishment of Regional Offices in other places viz. Northern Circars and Telengana will be taken up when financial condition of the State is improved.

Orissa: The question of opening Regional or Divisional Archives in the State will be examined later as soon as the State Archives is reorganised.